

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00747 151652Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 OMB-01 ARA-16 DRC-01 /130 W

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O R 151622Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8521

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SLAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USINT CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0747

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF TITO TRAVEL PLANS

REF: BELGRADE 0731 NOTAL

1. TANJUG ANNOUNCED SHORTLY BEFORE 1700 FEBRUARY 15 (EMBARGOED UNTIL 1800 (BELGRADE TIME) THAT TITO VISIT TO HUNGARY "DELAYED" BY AGREEMENT

BOTH SIDES "FOR A SHORT TIME". TANJUG ALSO ANNOUNCED EARLIER IN DAY IN NEARLY IDENTICAL LANGUAGE DELAY OF VISIT OF EGYPTIAN FORMIN FAHMY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TODAY.

2. WHILE NEVER OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED IT WAS GENERALLY KNOWN HERE THAT TITO WAS PLANNING AFRICAN TRIP IN
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 00747 151652Z

MARCH TO INCLUDE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: MAURITANIA, GHANA,

ZAMBIA, ZAIRE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TANZANIA. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS IN EACH CASE EITHER TO RETURN EARLIER VISITS HERE OF CHIEFS OF STATE, OR REESTABLISH HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF NEW GOVERNMENTS. AMBASSADOR OF ONE OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED HAS CONFIRMED TODAY TO EMBASSY THAT THE VISIT HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED. THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR URGENCY TO IT, HE EXPLAINED, IT HAVING BEEN ENVISAGED TRIP WOULD COME UP SOMETIME IN FIRST HALF OF 1974. IT HAS NOW BEEN PUT OFF UNTIL SECOND HALF OF YEAR. ONLY EXPLANATION EMBASSY SOURCE COULD GIVE WAS "MARCH IS VERY HOT TIME TO BE VISITING AFRICA".

3. COMMENT: CANCELLATION HUNGARIAN VISIT PARTICULARLY SURPRISING SINCE IT WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ONLY YESTERDAY AND FEATURED IN TODAY'S PRESS. CANCELLATION OF FAHMY VISIT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT PROBLEM, WHATEVER IT IS, IS IN BELGRADE. THESE EVENTS BOUND TO GIVE RISE TO CONJECTURE RE TITO'S HEALTH. HE RETURNED ONLY FEBRUARY 7 FROM GRUELING ME AND SOUTH ASIAN TOUR. AT FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR PRESIDENT ECHIVERRIA TODAY, TITO SEEMED CUSTOMARILY STIFF AND TOTALLY LACKING IN ANIMATION, BUT HIS GAIT SEEMED FIRM ENOUGH DURING LONG TREK FROM AIRPORT ENTRANCE TO PLANE AND BACK. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENT, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELGRA00747
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740230/aaaabcdu.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELGRADE 0731 NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANCELLATION OF TITO TRAVEL PLANS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, YO, HU, (TITO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005